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HOW I HAPPENED TO BE SELECTED FOR A DELEGATE  
TO THE NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CAMP

A radio talk by Mary Idskowski, North Franklin, Connecticut, delivered Saturday, June 4, 1932, in the National 4-H club radio program, broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

4-H club boys and girls from coast to coast!

I appreciate very much the privilege of talking with you today. I don't exactly know why the honor should fall to me. But I'll try my best to tell you the record of our North Franklin 4-H club that's mainly responsible for my being a delegate from Connecticut to the National 4-H Camp.

One afternoon six years ago 23 of us met with Miss Elsie Trabue, our assistant State Club Leader, to organize the first clothing club in our county. What fun we had planning our first program and having our first club meeting: We had never before had the opportunity of all getting together to do things. Mrs. Marjorie Ayer, our leader, had a hard time keeping all 23 of us going. However, 22 of us completed the first year of work.

As we continued our clothing club 4-H activities came to mean more to us. We made articles of clothing. We demonstrated how to sew. We judged articles club members had made, and we rejoiced if our own placed first. We earned money to send our members to Junior Short Course at Connecticut Agricultural College.

The 1928 Junior Short Course was the first I attended. The week was full of fun and interesting work shared with boys and girls from all over the State. I was especially interested in the "home canning" course, and gladly joined the canning club organized in our town soon after we came home from short course.

Mother had always done some canning, but there were just dozens of empty jars collecting dust in our cellar, because Mother couldn't possibly find the time to fill them all. That summer our canning club set a goal of 1,000 jars. We kept track of our progress toward our goal by the rise of the mercury in a large thermometer painted on cardboard and marked in degrees representing jars canned. I was determined to do my bit to make the mercury rise, so I canned all I could, and was surprised and delighted to be awarded the medal given the champion canner at our County Roundup. Our club thermometer did reach the top, too. In fact, we canned more than 1,000 jars. Since all the members of our club come from families varying in size from seven to 15 people, you can imagine how much our parents appreciated the canning club work.

After I had been in the clothing, canning, and garden clubs, I joined a food club. Then a room improvement club. The room improvement project is more interesting to me. It teaches us to make our rooms pretty as well as comfortable. We learn to paint odd pieces of furniture to match the others. We discard unnecessary pieces which merely clutter up a room. We improve storage space, and

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we make curtains and other articles to further beautify our rooms.

Summer is always a busy time for us 4-H members. For one thing, we are preparing demonstrations and exhibits for 4-H fairs. With another club member, I have won in the county contest and competed in the demonstrations at the State 4-H Fair.

Our county 4-H Fair is planned for and managed entirely by club members under the direction of our county club agents. Two years ago we older 4-H members organized a Senior Club to help younger boys and girls with their work. Last year we raised \$300 to finance the county 4-H fair. The job of secretary of the 4-H Fair association has fallen to me this year.

The summer time brings us the County Camp and the State Club Week as well as the fairs. One of my finest 4-H experiences came at the county camp last summer. I was one of the two members elected to represent camp spirit at the last camp fire, a candle lighting ceremony. These ceremonies are impressive and inspiring. They help us maintain high ideals and keep improving our 4-H work.

The National Club Camp will be almost my final experience as a club member, for I am nearly past the age limit. But I hope to become a local leader in the future and help other girls enjoy and benefit by 4-H work. This work has made it possible for me to meet people from different sections of our State as well as from other States. It has taught me to do things for myself; it has given me good times with other young folks; it has brought me this chance to visit with you over the radio; and it has made it possible for me to attend the National 4-H Camp.